Claims

1. – 33. (canceled)

34. (previously presented) In a receiver, a method comprising:

detecting a descriptor within data transmitted by a transmitter, the descriptor including multiple sets of buffer parameters that specify multiple points on a rate-buffer size curve;

selecting between conventional and robust channels, wherein relative to data of the conventional channel, data of the robust channel have a higher level of robustness to transmission errors due to an increase of redundancy in the data of the robust channel;

based at least in part upon the level of robustness for the robust channel and effective rate of the data of the selected channel, identifying a buffer size using one or more of the multiple sets of buffer parameters, wherein for different levels of robustness the rate-buffer size curve provides different buffer sizes for the data of the selected channel;

configuring memory resources and flow control logic to provide elementary stream acquisition according to guidelines embodied by the identified buffer size; and

buffering the data of the selected channel until a buffer contains more than an initial buffer fullness value of the data of the selected channel.

35. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, further comprising reconfiguring the memory resources and the flow control logic upon receipt of a new descriptor.

36. – 38. (canceled)

39. (currently amended) A receiver having a buffer, memory resources, and flow control logic, said receiver comprising:

means for detecting a descriptor within transmitted data, the descriptor including multiple sets of buffer parameters that specify multiple points on a rate-buffer size curve;

means for deciding which of conventional and robust channels to select, wherein relative to data of the conventional channel, data of the robust channel have a higher level of robustness to transmission errors due to an increase of redundancy in the data of the robust channel;

means for identifying a buffer size based at least in part upon the level of robustness for the robust channel, effective rate of the data of the selected channel, and one or more of the multiple sets of buffer parameters, wherein the rate-buffer size curve indicates different buffer sizes for different levels of robustness;

means for configuring said memory resources and said flow control logic to provide elementary stream acquisition according to guidelines embodied by the identified buffer size; and

means for decoding the data of the selected channel when said [[a]] buffer contains greater than an initial buffer fullness value of the data of the selected channel.

40. (previously presented) The receiver of claim 39, wherein the means for configuring memory resources and flow control logic reconfigures the buffer upon receipt of a new descriptor.

41. (canceled)

42. (canceled)

43. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, further comprising monitoring reception characteristics and statistics for use in the selecting.

44. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the monitoring includes monitoring symbol rate for the conventional channel and symbol rate for the robust channel.

45. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the monitoring includes monitoring one or more of signal-to-noise ratio, carrier-to-noise ratio, average signal energy, and peak signal energy of the transmitted data, and wherein the transmitted data includes the data of the conventional channel and the data of the robust channel.

46. (previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the monitoring includes monitoring extent of packet corruption.

47. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the conventional channel is a first portion of a transmission channel and the robust channel is a second portion of the transmission channel.

48. (canceled)

49. (previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein rate for the transmission channel exceeds rate for the conventional channel and exceeds rate for the robust channel.

50. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the relatively higher level of robustness of the data of the robust channel is in terms of increased redundancy through channel coding techniques for the data of the robust channel.

51. (previously presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the relatively higher level of robustness of the data of the robust channel is in terms of increased use of cyclical redundancy codes or convolutional codes within the data of the robust channel.

52. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing computer-executable instructions for causing the receiver programmed thereby to perform the method of claim 34.

53. (previously presented) The receiver of claim 39, wherein the means for deciding includes means for monitoring reception characteristics and statistics for use in the deciding.

54. (previously presented) The receiver of claim 53, wherein the monitoring includes monitoring symbol rate for the conventional channel and symbol rate for the robust channel.

55. (previously presented) The receiver of claim 53, wherein the monitoring includes monitoring one or more of signal-to-noise ratio, carrier-to-noise ratio, average signal energy, and

peak signal energy of the transmitted data, and wherein the transmitted data includes the data of the conventional channel and the data of the robust channel.

56. (previously presented) The receiver of claim 53, wherein the monitoring includes monitoring extent of packet corruption.

57. (previously presented) The receiver of claim 39, wherein the conventional channel is a first portion of a transmission channel and the robust channel is a second portion of the transmission channel.

58. (canceled)

59. (previously presented) The receiver of claim 57, wherein rate for the transmission channel exceeds rate for the conventional channel and exceeds rate for the robust channel.

60. (previously presented) The receiver of claim 39, wherein the relatively higher level of robustness of the data of the robust channel is in terms of increased redundancy through channel coding techniques for the data of the robust channel.

61. (previously presented) The receiver of claim 39, wherein the relatively higher level of robustness of the data of the robust channel is in terms of increased use of cyclical redundancy codes or convolutional codes within the data of the robust channel.

62. (currently amended) In a receiver, a method comprising:

obtaining multiple sets of reference decoder parameters that specify multiple points on a rate-buffer size curve;

in the receiver, selecting between a conventional channel and a robust channel, wherein relative to data of the conventional channel, data of the robust channel have a higher level of robustness to transmissions errors due to an increase of redundancy in the data of the robust channel;

based at least in part upon the level of robustness for the robust channel and effective rate of the data of the selected channel, identifying a buffer size using one or more of the multiple[[s]] sets of reference decoder parameters, the rate-buffer size curve providing different buffer sizes for different levels of robustness;

configuring a buffer in the receiver according to the identified buffer size; and

in the buffer, buffering the data from the selected channel.

63. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the selecting is based at least in part upon monitoring symbol rate for the conventional channel and symbol rate for the robust channel.

64. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the selecting is based at least in part upon monitoring one or more of signal-to-noise ratio, carrier-to-noise ratio, average signal energy, and peak signal energy of a transmitted signal including the data of the conventional channel and the data of the robust channel.

65. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the selecting is based at least in part upon monitoring of extent packet corruption.

66. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the multiple buffer models are applicable to both the conventional channel and the robust channel.

67. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the data includes packets for a video stream.

68. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the identifying the buffer size includes selecting the buffer size from one of the multiple sets of reference decoder parameters.

69. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the identifying the buffer size includes interpolating between plural buffer size parameters of plural of the multiple sets of reference decoder parameters.

70. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the conventional channel is a first portion of a transmission channel and the robust channel is a second portion of the transmission channel.

71. (canceled)

72. (previously presented) The method of claim 70, wherein rate for the transmission channel exceeds rate for the conventional channel and exceeds rate for the robust channel.

73. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, further comprising:

based at least in part upon updated rate of the data for the selected channel, identifying in the receiver a new buffer size;

reconfiguring the buffer in the receiver according to the new buffer size.

74. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the relatively higher level of robustness of the data of the robust channel is in terms of increased redundancy through channel coding techniques for the data of the robust channel.

75. (previously presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the relatively higher level of robustness of the data of the robust channel is in terms of increased use of cyclical redundancy codes or convolutional codes within the data of the robust channel.

76. (previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium storing computer-executable instructions for causing the receiver programmed thereby to perform the method of claim 62.